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DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER ARTICLE 18 OF THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Third periodic reports of States parties

BELARUS*

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Government of Belarus is submitting its third periodic report on implementation of the provisions of the Convention during the period from 1987 to 1992.

2. The report focuses mainly on information that was not included in the previous reports.

3. The report has been prepared in accordance with the general guidelines as to the form and content of reports.

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* For the initial report submitted by the Government of Belarus see CEDAW/C/5/Add.5; for its consideration by the Committee, see CEDAW/C/SR.15 and CEDAW/C/SR.21 and Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 45 (A/39/45), paras. 123-151; and for the second periodic report submitted by the Government of Belarus, see CEDAW/C/13/Add.5 and Amend.1; for its consideration by the Committee, see CEDAW/C/SR.147 and Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/44/38), paras. 375-389.

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II. GENERAL INFORMATION[1]

A. Demography

4. Women account for 53.1 per cent (5,152,900) of the total population of Belarus (10,280,800). The average general life expectancy is 70.7 years: 65.5 years for men and 75.5 years for women. In urban areas, life expectancy is 71.3 years: 66.5 for men and 75.7 for women. In rural areas, life expectancy is 68.7 years: 63.2 for men and 74.7 for women.

5. During the period under consideration (1987-1992), certain demographic changes occurred in the Republic. The birth rate, which in 1991 was 13 per cent, or 79.7 per cent of the 1981 level (16.3 per cent), continued to decline.

6. The next most important demographic indicator, the general death rate, showed an upward trend: in 1991, it rose by 16.6 per cent compared to 1981 (11.2 and 9.6 per 1,000 population in 1991 and 1981, respectively). All this led to a 73 per cent decline in the rate of natural population growth, from 6.7 per cent in 1981 to 1.8 per cent in 1991.

7. Infant mortality during the reporting period fell by 27 per cent; the number of children who died in 1991 before reaching the age of one year was 11.9 per 1,000 live births (compared to 16.7 per cent in 1981).

8. The pattern of infant mortality has remained unchanged since 1982: perinatal mortality is the highest indicator at 35.3 per cent (32 per cent in 1989 and 38 per cent in 1990), followed by congenital malformations at 29.4 per cent (compared to 30 per cent in 1989-1990) and diseases of the respiratory system (acute respiratory disease, influenza, pneumonia) at 15.1 per cent (compared to 16.6 per cent in 1989 and 13.5 per cent in 1990). Within the general indicator of infant mortality, neonatal mortality is on the rise (47.9 per cent in 1981, 51 per cent in 1985 and 62.2 per cent in 1990).

9. The mortality rate among children aged from 0 to 14 years is 1.2 per 1,000 of the child population; for children aged between 1 and 14 years, the rate is 0.5 per 1,000 children in that age group (1990). Children who die during the first year of life account for 61.3 per cent of all child deaths between the ages of 0 and 14 years inclusive. The main causes of death among children over one year of age are accidents (44.66 per cent), neoplasms (15.62 per cent) and congenital anomalies (9.77 per cent).

10. It should be noted that, from the age of three, the proportion of accidents as a major cause of child deaths rises sharply (45.1 per cent for two- to three-year-olds, 50.6 per cent for four- to five-year-olds, and 52.0 per cent for five- to nine- and 10- to 14-year-olds).

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[1] A statistical survey on the status of women in Belarus is annexed to this report.

B. Social, economic and political status of women

11. The Belarusian Constitution's proclamation of the equality of men and women is unquestionably a major social achievement. However, it is regrettable that there is a very significant and ever increasing gap between declared principles and their de facto implementation. This is confirmed by the numerous problems faced by women in every aspect of their lives: inequality in daily life, employment, remuneration, fulfilment of their maternal and child-rearing functions, and so on.

12. The situation of Belarusian women has deteriorated markedly during the country's transition to a market economy. Women are among the most vulnerable social groups and face the very serious problem of unemployment.

13. The high level of female employment in the national economy (52 per cent), changes in the sectoral and occupational patterns of female employment towards greater conformity with the specific profile of the female labour force, and the steady increase in the level of women's education and occupational skills are typical features of female labour in Belarus. At the same time, an analysis of the sectoral structure shows that, despite the structural changes that have taken place in recent years, the current division of labour by sex in the Republic is far from perfect. The division of labour often depends not so much on the specific ways in which male and female labour is utilized as on a number of other factors (working conditions and remuneration, prestige of various professions, and so on), which has a definite impact on the effectiveness of men's and women's work. Furthermore, the male-female ratio of employees in the various sectors of the economy is not fully consistent with the objectives of demographic policy because working conditions often have an adverse effect on demographic trends, such as birth and death rates. Thus, the employment of women in jobs with unfavourable working conditions often leads to an increase in complications during pregnancy or childbirth and occasionally to the birth of children with various abnormalities.

14. In material production, women engaged chiefly in physical labour (42.1 per cent of all physical labourers) usually work in ancillary and service jobs, such as laboratory assistants (92.6 per cent), checkers, quality-control inspectors, sorters (88.7 per cent), warehouse staff, weighing-machine operators, distributors (88.4 per cent) and so forth. These are unskilled and unproductive jobs and their level of remuneration is relatively low.

15. As a rule, women with higher or secondary specialized education tend to work in non-productive areas, which is clearly reflected by the high proportion of women in professional occupations (62.5 per cent). Women are particularly attracted to engineering and technical, scientific, medical, teaching, cultural and educational work, and also trade, planning and accounting. Female employment in these fields ranges from 60 to 90 per cent. Women with higher or secondary education are concentrated mainly in middle- and low-level positions.

16. The employment of women in agriculture is beset by a number of serious problems. Between 1987 and 1991, the number of women employed in this sector continued to decline (456,700, or 43.2 per cent, in 1987 compared to only 376,700, or 40.3 per cent, in 1990).

17. The decline in the number of women working in the agricultural sector is essentially a natural process, since technical progress has reduced the need for unskilled, and often heavy, manual labour. This process will continue in the foreseeable future, not only as a result of lay-offs owing to a higher level of mechanization but also because large numbers of women will be too old to work; many will not be replaced because young women have higher expectations with regard to pay and working conditions. In 1989, the average age of women employed in this sector was 42.5 (43.4 on collective farms) as compared with 38.8 in the national economy as a whole.

18. At the same time, the decline in the number of women employed in agriculture is having a significant impact on gender imbalance in rural areas as a whole. In order to ensure gender-balanced employment in the countryside, work opportunities for women will be expanded by promoting those sectors and types of activity in which female labour predominates. To this end, enterprises which have some technical connection with agriculture (processing and storage of agricultural produce, agriculture-related industries) and branches of industrial enterprises will be moved from cities to the countryside, and a network of institutions providing a social infrastructure will be developed. As far as the education and training of personnel are concerned, the range of occupations that may be studied in rural vocational schools will be expanded both in the agricultural sphere (mechanization experts in livestock-raising, operators, technicians, and so on) and in other branches of industry and trades that provide services to the rural population.

19. It is difficult to determine the extent to which women are participating in new economic structures involving various forms of ownership (entrepreneurial, cooperative, leaseholding, private farm, private labour activity and so on)[2] owing to the lack or reliable and complete data based on such qualitative characteristics of the labour force as sex, age, education and so forth.

20. A number of measures are being contemplated with a view to developing new forms of employment for women as one way of addressing the problem of future female unemployment and ensuring that women have the same starting opportunities as men in the transition to a market economy.

21. With respect to the issue of female employment, it must be pointed out that the economic crisis, the disruption of economic and political ties, the transition to a market economy, shortages of all kinds of consumer goods, inflation, the decline in real income and rising social tensions are having a very negative impact on the situation of women.

22. Women have borne the brunt of the lay-offs resulting from the closing of enterprises and downsizing. They currently account for 69 to 77 per cent of all redundant workers in various cities throughout Belarus. They are mostly women with higher or secondary specialized education: engineers with various specialities, economists, cultural workers and so forth. Women comprise

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[2] As of November 1991, there were 1,300 small businesses, 5,300 cooperatives, 198 joint ventures, 75 associations, 14 corporations and 5 concerns registered in Belarus.

82.3 per cent of the registered unemployed and 87.6, per cent of qualified specialists.

23. Generally speaking, 8 out of every 10 unemployed persons registered with the Republic's Employment Service are women between the ages of 30 and 40 with 10 to 15 years of work experience.

24. There are two categories of unemployed women in Belarus: young specialists who graduated from technical schools and higher educational institutions and who are not being hired by enterprises, and women specialists, such as mechanical engineers, programmers, technicians and chemists, who were the first to be laid off by enterprises.

25. This is because, in keeping with the more effective use of resources, including the labour force, increasing numbers of workers are being laid off and redistributed. In such conditions, the prime candidates for redundancy are women who are often absent from work when their children are sick. Moreover, labour is becoming more intensified in the new economic conditions are there is a growing demand for competent and qualified workers capable of mastering new skills. Here, too, women find themselves at a disadvantage because their domestic workload saps the physical and moral strength necessary for professional growth. Finally, the restructuring of the economy means that labour shortages are becoming a thing of the past and the demand for labour is diminishing. It is becoming increasingly difficult to tackle the issue of job placement because people are turning to employment centres in rapidly increasing numbers while the number of jobs and vacancies are contracting sharply. Thus, whereas on 1 January 1992 there were 64,000 job vacancies, on 1 June 1992 there were only 29,000. At the same time, the unemployed population numbered 32,000 as at 1 June 1992.

26. For a woman, the loss of a job represents not only a loss of earnings but also the forfeiture of social protection for herself and her family, because the system of State support for families and children is mainly centred around women. Of every 1,000 individuals living near or below the poverty line, a large majority are single mothers, single women of retirement age and women taking partly paid or unpaid leave to look after a child. Over 50 per cent of women registered as unemployed have one or two dependent small children, and 1 per cent have three or more children.

27. The process of transition to a market economy is exacerbating other unresolved social and economic problems that affect the status of women. One of these is the contradiction between women's growing contribution to social progress and their continuing - and often increasing - social, economic and political inequality.

28. One way in which this contradiction manifests itself is the under-representation of women in various administrative structures. The level of women's participation in management is an important criterion for gauging the extent to which de facto gender equality has been achieved. The almost complete lack of statistical information on women in management in Belarus indirectly confirms that women do not fare too well in this area.

29. The necessary prerequisites for the broader participation of women in management already exist; these include, first of all, the large number of women employed in social production (around 84 per cent) and their high level of general education. In the 1991/92 academic year, 53 per cent of the students in higher educational institutions and 59 per cent of the students in secondary specialized institutions were women. Thus, in the area of general and specialized education, women in Belarus have reached de facto equality with men (according to the 1989 census, of every 1,000 persons of the corresponding sex among the economically active population, there were 149 women and 138 men with higher education and 641 women and 608 men with secondary specialized education). Moreover, women today make up 56 per cent of specialists with higher education employed in the national economy. The number of women specialists has risen from 245,000 (53.8 per cent) in 1980 to 357,600.

30. As recent census date for Belarus show, from 1979 to 1989 there was an increase in the number and, in certain categories, proportion of women in decision-making positions. The number of women managers in government administrative bodies and their structural subdivisions rose from 4,300 to 6,600 (an increase from 18.5 to 50 per cent); directors of social organizations and their structural subdivisions - from 4,100 to 7,200 (from 32.5 to 40.1 per cent); executives of enterprises and organizations (industry, construction, agriculture and forestry, transport and communications) and their structural subdivisions - from 21,100 to 28,400 (the proportion remained practically unchanged at 27 per cent); heads of factory shops, sections, workshops and departments - from 6,300 to 7,800 persons (a decrease from 27.4 to 24.2 per cent); heads of scientific research establishments, exploring and prospecting organizations and scientific workers - from 7,600 to 10,200 (from 39.2 to 39.8 per cent); directors of educational institutions and courses from 2,500 to 4,100 (from 30 to 43.6 per cent); heads of economic planning and financial organizations - from 2,800 to 5,200 persons (the proportion of women rose from 56 to 62.4 per cent).

31. While the foregoing statistics seem quite positive, they do not give an accurate picture of women's participation in management, since they include both low-level managers with little influence on the government decision-making process (most women managers fall into this category) and top-level managers.

32. According to recent statistical data, the number of high-ranking women managers in the field of material production as at 1 January 1991 were: industry - 172, or 9.3 per cent (out of a total of 792,900 women in this branch, or 48.6 per cent of the total); agriculture - 254, or 6.9 per cent (out of a total of 155,300 women, or 40.8 per cent); transport - 4 women, or 0.8 per cent (out of a total of 64,100 women, or 21 per cent); construction - 7,000, or 0.4 per cent (out of a total of 102,200 women, or 22.1 per cent).

33. These data unequivocally show that today the number of women managers is still not proportionate to the number of women employed in the national economy. A study of professional employment patterns clearly illustrates that, as positions become more substantive and complex, and more demanding, in terms of creativity and responsibility, they are more often occupied by men.

34. This situation is the result not only of the traditional perception of women primarily as mothers and housewives, but is also due to the existence of certain institutional and sociocultural barriers to the advancement of women.

35. At the end of the 1980s and in the early 1990s, new forms of economic management and the new areas of employment generated by them (cooperatives, private labour, businesses and so on) began to have an impact on the situation. A study of women's employment in these areas has been hampered by a lack of statistical information on such qualitative characteristics of the workforce as sex, age, education and so on; however, indirect data show that women's involvement in small and medium-sized businesses is proceeding with difficulty. A few women are managers of small corporate enterprises and joint ventures. Beginning in 1993 statistical agencies will collect data on women's employment in these areas.

36. The situation of women in the area of politics is quite similar. Although women account for over half the population of Belarus, they have practically no opportunity to further their interests through elected bodies. Among the members of the Supreme Council, there are 13 women deputies, or 3 per cent, only one of whom works on a permanent basis. With the abolition of quotas, the proportion of women in local councils of people's deputies has declined sharply. In the Cabinet of Ministers there is only one woman - the Minister of Social Security. There is also only one woman among the Republic's international representatives.

37. Thus, it must be acknowledged that the involvement of women in the decision-making process is inadequate given their high level of education and activity in public affairs, and does not meet the objective needs of a democratic society.

38. The insufficient proportion of women in responsible posts, which is typical of all branches of economic and social life, calls for changes in personnel policies in this area.

39. First of all, there are plans to adopt a more careful approach in the selection of secondary school graduates for admission to higher educational institutes and the formation of a contingent of students to be trained to manage the national economy.

40. In order to ensure the more successful combination of managerial work and family responsibilities, it has been proposed that women managers at all levels be given the right to work on a flexible schedule during the most critical period of maternity and child-rearing.

41. In the light of the current situation and in accordance with article 7 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which states that "States Parties ... shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right to participate in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of Government", the Supreme Council of Belarus plans to consider the temporary special measures recommended to States Parties and widely used by parliaments, in particular, a system of quotas for women in government

bodies. The Supreme Council also intends to make a practice of holding regular parliamentary hearings on women's problems.

42. Certain political, economic and social phenomena are reflected in the primary unit of society - the family. In Belarus, 88 per cent of the population lives in families. The growth rate for the number of families in the Republic has outstripped the population growth rate. The size of the average family has continued to decline over the past 30 years; the average family currently consists of 3.2 persons, as compared to 3.7 persons in 1959. Since 1979, the average family size in urban areas of Belarus has been higher than in rural areas. Population census data show a continuing decline in the number of large families. While the 1959 census indicated that every fourth family consisted of five or more members (26 per cent), according to 1989 census data it was only every ninth (11 per cent). Most families in Belarus consist of two, three or four members.

43. The disparity between people's rising demands for improvements in their family life and the real situation has resulted in a high divorce rate. Currently, 61.7 per cent (2,583,000) of women have contracted registered marriages, as compared to 58.9 per cent (2,321,000) in 1979; 17.7 per cent (738,600) are widowed and 6.3 per cent are divorced (265,000). Over the past 15 years, the number of divorces has continued to increase.

44. The proportion of children born to women who are not in registered marriages is increasing. It rose from 6.4 per cent in 1980 to 8.5 per cent in 1990.

45. As a result of divorce, out-of-wedlock births and widowhood, the number of one-parent families is on the rise. According to population census data, the number of such families increased from 299,200 in 1979 to 338,800 in 1989; in 1989, 82.6 per cent of these were families in which the children were being brought up only by the mother, and 6.9 per cent were families in which the children were being brought up only by the father.

46. The State is endeavouring to assist these families and children. The Ministry of Education of Belarus operates 16 homes for pre-school children and 4 homes for school-age children, 35 regular boarding schools, 19 sanatoria/boarding schools and 83 special boarding schools for children with mental and physical handicaps. In all State institutions of this type there are 26,600 children, including 6,940 orphans; nine children's homes (2,595 children) for children with various mental and physical handicaps are maintained by the Ministry of Social Welfare.

47. Overall there are pre-school institutions in Belarus for 61.3 per cent, or 561,900 children: in towns, 66.7 per cent of children aged from one to six are covered by pre-school institutions, and in rural areas, 46.7 per cent are covered. At present, as a result of the adoption of new legislation under which women or other working family members may be granted leave to care for a child up to the age of three, many parents prefer to raise their children at home.

48. In view of the environmental situation in Belarus, there is a need to expand the network of pre-school therapeutic institutions for children. Thirty

such institutions, attended by 5,076 sickly children, have already been established and are in operation. Health groups are also being organized in regular pre-school institutions. Currently, there are 9,233 children in such groups.

49. In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of children who, after exposure to the effects of radioactive iodine following the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, suffer from thyroid cancer and diseases of the digestive, respiratory, haematopoietic and other systems.

50. Many problems have accumulated in the sphere of women's public and political activities. Although women account for more than half the population of the Republic, they have no opportunity to further their interests through the existing legislative and executive power structures. Thus, of the members of the Supreme Council of Belarus, 12 (or 3 per cent) are women. The proportion of women in local councils of people's deputies has sharply declined.

III. MEASURES TAKEN BY THE STATE TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (1987-1992)

51. In order to solve the range of problems that have arisen in various areas of women's activities, a State programme for improving the situation of women and for family, maternal and child welfare has been developed and is currently under consideration by the Supreme Council of Belarus. Several provisions of the programme have been incorporated into legislative instruments adopted in the Republic. At the same time, it goes without saying that the economic crisis and the lack of financial resources have affected the implementation of the measures envisaged in the programme.

Article 2

52. (a) The 1978 Constitution of the Republic of Belarus (arts. 33 and 51). The Supreme Council, the highest legislative body of Belarus, is currently considering a draft of a new constitution for Belarus, which prohibits discrimination and guarantees opportunities for women on an equal basis with men in all spheres of life;

(b) Code (art. 170). The first part of article 170 of the Labour Code of Belarus reads as follows: "The denial of employment to women or the reduction of their earnings because of pregnancy or the existence of children up to the age of three or, in the case of single mothers, the existence of a child up to the age of 14 (or a disabled child up to the age of 16) is prohibited". A new section has been included in the article, which reads as follows: "When denying employment to these categories of women, the administration is required to inform them in writing of the reasons for such denial. Denial of employment may be appealed in a people's court." It continues: "The dismissal of pregnant women and women with children up to the age of three (in the case of single mothers - if there is a child under the age of 14 or a disabled child under the age of 16) on the initiative of the administration is prohibited, except in cases of the complete closure of an enterprise, establishment or organization,

when dismissal with compulsory job placement is allowed. Compulsory job placement for such women is also provided by the administration in cases of their dismissal at the end of a fixed-term employment contract. During the period of job placement, they continue to receive their average pay, but not for more than three months after the date on which the fixed-term employment contract ends";

(c) The Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus (art. 136).

Article 3

53. The Constitution of the Republic of Belarus (arts. 33 and 51).

Article 4

54. In order to improve the situation of women in Belarus, an act on amendments and additions to certain legislative instruments of the Republic of Belarus relating to women, the family and children was adopted in July 1990 as a special measure.

55. A State programme for improving the situation of women and for family, maternal and child welfare, and a bill on State allowances for families with children, have been drawn up.

Article 5

56. In order to overcome stereotypical ideas about the role and place of men and women in society and the family and to ensure the equal responsibility of men and women for the upbringing and development of their children, special legislative measures have been adopted. For example, amendments have been made to the legislative instruments regulating the system for granting leave to care for infants and young children. The family has the right to decide which parent or other relative should take the leave, which is granted until the child reaches the age of three.

57. Changes are being introduced in teaching practices in educational institutions and are being publicized in the media (television, radio, newspapers and magazines). Article 4 of the Education Act, adopted by the Supreme Council of Belarus in October 1991 establishes that one of the objectives of education in Belarus is to inculcate respect for family life.

Article 6

58. The Code of Administrative Offences of the Republic of Belarus (art. 162-1).

Article 7

59. (a) The Constitution of the Republic of Belarus (arts. 33-85);

(b) Article 20 of the Act on Election of People's Deputies to Local Councils of People's Deputies of the Republic of Belarus.

60. Under existing legislation, people's deputies are elected in general elections. Any direct or indirect restrictions of the electoral rights of Belarusian citizens on the basis of their origin, social or financial status, race, origin, sex, education, language, attitude towards religion, length of residence in a given locality, or nature of occupation are prohibited.

61. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 42/60 of 30 November 1987, the process of establishing national machinery and legislative and executive structures at the State and regional levels to take up questions of the situation of women is continuing in Belarus.

62. The Commission on Family and Youth has been established under the Supreme Council of Belarus, and the Directorate of Social and Cultural Affairs and the Section on Health Care, Social Security and Maternal and Child Welfare operate under the authority of the Council of Ministers of Belarus.

63. The Department on Family and Women's Affairs, a structural subdivision of the Directorate of Social Welfare and Standard of Living, has been established under the auspices of the State Committee on Labour and Social Welfare. The range of tasks of the newly created structures include: carrying out a detailed analysis of the situation of women in the labour, family and social and political spheres; formulating and implementing State policy at the various administrative levels with a view to creating equal opportunities for furthering the interests of women in all spheres of life; recognition of the fact that professional work, family responsibilities and the social and political activities of both men and women are of equal importance to society; and coordination of the efforts of various ministries and departments and of scientific, creative and public organizations.

64. The sphere of activity of public organizations has changed. Independent women's public organizations, such as the Women's League of Belarus, the Organization of Mothers of Soldiers of the Republic of Belarus, the Women's Alliance of the Republic of Belarus, the Women's Christian-Democratic Movement of Belarus, are being established.

65. The Women's Alliance of the Republic of Belarus was registered in December 1991 as a voluntary, independent, public, non-governmental organization. Its basic aim is to protect the rights and legitimate interests of women, improve the status of women in society, protect the rights of the child and solve environmental problems.

66. The basic areas of activity of the Women's Alliance are involvement of women in the management of public affairs, social support for women, promotion of women's entrepreneurship and assistance to needy families.

67. The Women's Alliance regards the promotion of small and medium-sized women's businesses, particularly in the service sector, as one of its most important goals, since Belarusian women with higher education between the ages of 25 and 40 constitute the foremost category of unemployed persons in the Republic. A women's business school, organized under the auspices of the Women's Alliance, is helping such women to find their place in society.

Article 9

68. (a) The Declaration of the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic on State Sovereignty of the Byelorussian SSR (arts. 2-4);

(b) The Act of the Republic of Belarus on Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus (arts. 3, 4 and 14).

69. In accordance with article 3 of the Act on Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus of 18 October 1991, citizenship of the Republic of Belarus is equal for all citizens of the Republic regardless of the grounds on which it was acquired.

70. A citizen of Belarus may not be deprived of citizenship. No citizen of Belarus may be arbitrarily deprived of the right to change his citizenship (art. 4 of the Act on Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus).

71. The conclusion or dissolution of a marriage between a citizen of Belarus and a citizen of another State or a stateless person does not change the citizenship of the husband or the wife (art. 14 of the Act).

Article 10

72. (a) The Constitution of the Republic of Belarus (arts. 33 and 43);

(b) The Act on Education in the Republic of Belarus (arts. 4, 5 and 30).

73. The right of Belarusian women to education derives from the right of Belarusian citizens to education, which is guaranteed in article 43 of the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus.

74. The Act on Education in the Republic of Belarus, adopted in October 1991 by the Supreme Soviet, provides that Belarus, as a sovereign State, has its own system of education and guarantees to each citizen the possibility of personal development, education appropriate to his or her needs and abilities, and active participation in the cultural and historical legacy of the Belarusian people and other ethnic communities of the Republic. Article 5 of the Act states that all inhabitants of Belarus, including foreign nationals and stateless persons residing permanently in the territory of the Republic, are entitled to equal access to the national education system.

75. Given their social equality, Belarusian women may enter any profession that suits their inclinations, vocation and abilities, taking into account social needs. Women have broad access to vocational, secondary specialized and higher education. They have the same rights and duties as men in the sphere of education. These rights are defined in article 30 of the above-mentioned Act.

Article 11

76. The provisions of paragraph 1 of article 11 are legally enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus (art. 33) and also in the Labour Code of the Republic of Belarus (arts. 160-164) and the Health Care Act of the Republic of Belarus (sect. V).

77. The provisions of paragraph 2 of article 11 the Convention are laid down in the Labour Code (arts. 34, 48, 49, 162, 163 and 165), the Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus (art. 136) and the Marriage and Family Code of the Republic of Belarus (art. 5).

78. During the period under consideration, Belarus adopted an act on amending and supplementing certain legislative instruments of the Republic of Belarus on questions relating to women, the family and children. In accordance with this act, amendments were made to a number of articles of the Labour Code, which are designed to help improve the protection of mothers and children, prevent discrimination against women on the grounds of maternity and ensure their effective right to work. Accordingly, the new wording of article 48 of the Labour Code, after the words "up to two years of age" were replaced by the phrase "up to three years of age", reads: "Night work shall not be permitted for pregnant women and women who have children up to three years of age."

79. In the first part of article 49, the words "up to eight years of age" were replaced by the words "up to 14 years of age (including a child in her care)". The new wording of the article reads: "At the request of a pregnant woman who has a child up to 14 years of age (including a child in her care) or who is looking after a sick family member in accordance with a medical evaluation, the administration shall be obliged to establish a part-time workday or part-time workweek for her."

80. In the title and text of article 162, the words "up to two years of age" were replaced by the words "up to three years of age". The new wording of the article reads: "Pregnant women and women who have children up to three years of age shall not be assigned to night work, overtime work or work on holidays or be sent on mission."

81. In the title and text of article 163, the words "from two to eight years of age" were replaced by the words "from three to 14 years of age (disabled children to 16 years of age)". The new wording of the article reads: "Women who have children from three to 14 years of age (disabled children to 16 years of age) may not be assigned to overtime work or be sent on mission without their consent."

82. An act of the Republic of Belarus of 14 November 1991 confirmed the new wording of article 165 of the Labour Code. Article 165, on leave for pregnancy and childbirth, is worded as follows: "Women shall be granted leave for pregnancy and childbirth for 70 calendar days preceding childbirth and 56 (in cases involving complications in childbirth or the birth of two or more children - 70) calendar days after childbirth, with the payment during this period of a State social insurance allowance. Leave for pregnancy and childbirth shall be calculated cumulatively and shall be granted to a woman in toto, regardless of the number of days actually taken prior to childbirth."

83. Article 167, on leave for childcare, establishes "the right of women, regardless of length of service and in accordance with her wishes, to obtain leave to care for a child until it reaches three years of age, with payment during this period of a monthly State allowance, whose size and conditions for payment shall be established by the legislation of the Republic of Belarus".

"Leave to care for a child before it reaches three years of age shall be granted in full or in part to the mother of the child or, at the discretion of the family, to the working father or other relatives who actually care for the child."

84. "In accordance with the wishes of the persons referred to in the second part of this article, while they are on leave for childcare, they may work part time or at home. Under this arrangement, they shall retain the right to receive a monthly State allowance."

85. "During leave for childcare, the job (post) shall be maintained."

86. "The period of time taken for childcare leave shall be considered part of the total, uninterrupted length of service as well as length of specialized service. The period of leave referred to in this article shall not be included as part of length of service entitling one to subsequent annual leave."

87. The Act on Employment in the Republic of Belarus established the State Employment Service, which seeks to ensure the right of the Republic's citizens to work and receive State assistance in job placement, vocational training and social protection for unemployment. The Service is made up of the national department, regional (the Minsk municipal) and municipal departments and district departments of municipal employment centres. At the current time, 162 centres with 1,014 staff members are operating in the Republic.

88. A programme is being developed in the Republic to create additional jobs and establish quotas for enterprises and organizations, without distinction as to their form of ownership and management, for hiring persons unable to compete on an equal basis in the labour market. This primarily relates to single parents, parents of large families raising under-age and disabled children, and under-age young people.

89. In view of the fact that the overwhelming majority of the persons who are dismissed and seek assistance from the employment services are women, plans are being made to take the following steps in the near future:

(a) Earmark in employment centres the posts of special workers for providing consultative and organizational assistance to women in choosing types of employment;

(b) Determine the number of non-working women who wish to work part time or at home;

(c) Organize special courses to train and retrain women.

90. Consideration is being given to the question of lengthening the periods of time in which enterprises and organizations must inform employment services about upcoming mass lay-offs and indicate the number, gender and consolidated vocational groups. The timely provision of information will enable the local authorities to plan work in the area of retraining and job placement for women, determine the sector for social work and increase the employment of women at

home, including intellectual work (translation, editing, draughtsmanship and so forth).

91. Because of the specific characteristics of the female workforce in the national economy, the "List of production branches and jobs with difficult and unhealthy working conditions in which the use of women's labour is prohibited" was adopted in 1978 and subsequently amended in 1988. A decision was recently taken to draw up a national "List of production branches, professions and jobs with difficult and unhealthy working conditions in which the use of women's labour is prohibited", which will take account of the specific characteristics of the territorial division of labour and the fact that the adverse production conditions in Belarus are aggravated by the ecological factor resulting from the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. The types of work to which women of childbearing age should not be assigned are to be identified in the list.

92. A number of measures are also to be taken to increase the employment of women in the entrepreneurial sector. Accordingly, under the draft programme of action to strengthen the family, improve the situation of women and protect mothers and children, there are plans to continue work on setting up, during a transitional period, a system of courses and optional subjects for training women in the basic elements of entrepreneurial activity, provide, through the mass media, an accurate picture of the nature of the market and women's prospects in the area of entrepreneurship, publicize the experience of women who have achieved success in business, and orient women's entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship in general towards the creation of new jobs for women.

93. Certain steps in this area have already been taken. In 1992, the Women's Alliance of the Republic of Belarus founded a business school, through which two streams of women students have already passed. The training of women entrepreneurs was also begun in 1992 at the national Algorithm Scientific Methodology and Education Centre of the State Labour Committee.

94. In addition, the Entrepreneurs Association at the present time is developing a programme to promote entrepreneurship in Belarus, which should also include a number of measures to increase the employment of women in that area.

Article 12

95. Equal access by women to medical care is ensured under the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus and the Health Care Act of the Republic of Belarus. Medical and health services for the population are provided by 41,418 doctors, which represents 40.6 doctors for every 10,000 persons.

96. The protection of mothers is ensured through a system of special institutions (maternity hospitals, women's consultation clinics and so forth), that have the task of caring for women's health. Medical assistance for women who are mothers as well as for the entire population is provided free of charge. The average life expectancy in Belarus over the past 20 years has been 76 years for women and 67 years for men.

97. Medical care for women and children in the Republic is provided by 4,963 paediatricians and 2,305 obstetricians/gynaecologists, which represents 4.9 and 2.3 respectively for every 10,000 persons.

98. There are 7,367 hospital beds, or 7.2 for every 10,000 inhabitants, for providing in-patient assistance to pregnant women and women in childbirth (in maternity hospitals and general hospital wards).

99. There are 6,033 hospital beds (5.9 for every 10,000 persons) for in-patient treatment of gynaecological patients.

100. There are 316 women's consultation clinics and institutions with women's clinics and 3,056 midwife centres that provide out-patient care to women in the Republic.

101. A Republic medical-genetic consultation clinic was established in order to provide medical-genetic assistance to the population. The clinic offers consultations to families with hereditary and congenital diseases, cytogenetic examinations of patients and their families, total screening of infants for phenylketonuria and hypothyroidism, screening of pregnant women for the presence of congenital defects, ultrasound examination of pregnant women for health risks and prenatal diagnosis of hereditary diseases in foetuses. A system of prenatal diagnostic measures to identify congenital and hereditary diseases has made it possible to reduce infant mortality from congenital defects. There are 42 prenatal diagnostic consulting rooms in operation in the Republic.

102. Screening for congenital diseases conducted in the Republic has shown that congenital defects have increased since the Chernobyl accident. A special programme has been designed in order to prevent its genetic impact in the Republic.

103. In order to improve the clinical examination of pregnant women and increase women's interest in prenatal protection of the foetus, Belarus adopted Decision No. 248 of 26 June 1991 on the allocation of an incentive grant amounting to 50 per cent of the one-time allowance at childbirth for women who register at a women's consultation clinic before the twelfth week of pregnancy.

Article 13

104. The Constitution of the Republic of Belarus (arts. 33, 39 and 44).

105. In recent years, the Republic has continued its policy of strengthening the family and improving the legal protection of women's rights in the area of family relations. Belarus has pursued a policy of economic support for the family. Thus, in 1991 alone, the Supreme Council of Belarus adopted its Decision of 5 February 1991 on Additional Measures to Improve Maternal and Child Welfare, and the Council of Ministers adopted decisions No. 248 of 26 June 1991 on Additional Measures to Improve Maternal and Child Welfare in the Republic of Belarus, No. 482 of 20 December 1991 on Measures to Ensure the Social Welfare of the Population in the Context of Price Liberalization, and No. 492 of 27 December 1991 on Measures to Expand Assistance in Kind to Indigent Strata of the Population (see table 28).

106. Under the new Income Tax Act, adopted on 31 December 1991, single mothers with two or more children under the age of 18 receive a 30 per cent tax rebate; widows or widowers with two or more children under the age of 18, who do not receive a pension for loss of the breadwinner, receive a 30 per cent tax rebate; a parent caring for a child living at home who has been disabled since childhood and requires constant care receives a 30 per cent tax rebate; and both parents who raise three or four children under the age of 18 receive a 50 per cent tax rebate. Parents who are raising six or more children under the age of 18 are exempt from income tax.

107. A new system of social welfare for families with children has been introduced. Since January 1992, allowances to families with children up to the age of three have been equivalent to 120 per cent of minimum wage; from three to six years, 50 per cent; from six to 13 years, 60 per cent; and from 13 to 18 years, 70 per cent. Large families receive additional benefits.

108. The equality of spouses in family relations is guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic. Marriage is based on the voluntary consent of a man and a woman. Marriage in no way affects women's constitutional rights.

109. One of the special measures adopted in recent years to ensure the equal rights of fathers and mothers in their fulfilment of their parental obligations has been the practice of granting the right to any working family member, as designated by the family, to receive a certificate allowing that family member to take time off from work to care for a sick child. This right is guaranteed in article 167 of the Marriage and Family Code.

Article 14

110. A key factor in ensuring the necessary balance between the male and female population in rural areas is the further development of the non-productive sphere. The State programme for the rebirth of the Belarusian village calls for a significant increase in the turnover of food and non-food items and consumer services, the provision of all the pre-school institutions needed by the rural population, radical improvement in the health-care services and a significant increase in the activities of cultural institutions by the end of the 1990s. Since women predominate in all these sectors, there will be a considerable increase in female employment in rural areas.

111. Belarus's draft programme of action for the 1990s to strengthen the family, improve the situation of women, and protect mothers and children envisages a number of measures to expand the vocational and technical training of female personnel for work in rural areas. Thus, on the basis of existing vocational schools and new ones under construction, the draft programme provides for an increase in the number of girls learning occupations involving the processing, storage and marketing of agricultural products.

112. In addition, the draft programme provides for an increase in the special training of rural girls in urban vocational schools (their branches) in occupations involving the provision of services to the rural population.

113. With the development at the village level of new forms of management in the context of the transition to a market economy, work has begun on the multidisciplinary vocational training of women for work in peasants'(farmers') holdings and family tenant collectives. Thus, the Zhlobin and Lepel vocational schools have begun to train girls as farm managers.

114. In many agricultural schools, girls now learn two or three occupations at the same time (for example, laboratory assistant for chemical and bacteriological analysis, machine milking experts and so forth), which facilitates their subsequent job placement.

115. The Act on the Priority Socio-Cultural and Economic Development of the Village and the Agro-Industrial Complex, adopted by the Supreme Council of Belarus, has been in force since 1 July 1991.

116. According to article 5 of the Act, the State guarantees the social protection of peasants and the enhancement of their standard of living. The village is accorded priority over towns (on a per capita basis) in the construction of houses, residences, educational, cultural, physical education and sports, health care, social welfare, trade, communal and communications facilities, and also in the development of medical, trade and other types of services for the population.

117. Citizens living in rural areas receive credit on preferential terms to build individual dwellings with farm buildings.

118. Under the Act, specialists in the social sphere (most of whom are women) who work in the villages receive a number of benefits.

119. The pay scales (wage rates) for specialists working in health care, educational, cultural, physical education and sports and social security establishments in rural areas are 20 per cent higher than the pay of similar specialists working in the towns.

120. Local councils of people's deputies may introduce additional increments in the pay of workers in the above-mentioned occupations depending on the location of the educational, medical and social and cultural establishments and the level of social and economic development of the settlements, and may also make use of the contract system for recruiting specialists.

121. According to article 9 of the Act, citizens living in rural settlements in areas with a labour shortage, and also those travelling to such areas to work in agriculture and the social sphere of villages at the invitation of farms and village councils of people's deputies, receive the following benefits:

(a) Upon arrival they are provided with separate dwellings (apartments) with farm buildings, constructed or purchased with budget resources or by the farms;

(b) The dwellings (apartments) with farm buildings, constructed or purchased with budget resources, are provided to them as their personal property

on condition that they stay and work in agriculture or the social sphere of the village in that locality for at least 10 years;

(c) The living space at their place of permanent residence is held in reserve for the entire period of work in agriculture or the social sphere of the village.

122. The list of rural settlements in areas with a labour shortage is determined by the Council of Ministers of Belarus or, on its instructions, by another body.

123. The same Act also determines the benefits available to women working in rural localities:

(a) Duration of basic annual leave, not less than 28 calendar days;

(b) For those directly involved in agricultural production, one additional day off per month while retaining average pay.

124. Women working on collective or State farms or in other agricultural enterprises who have had five or more children and raised them up to the age of 16 are entitled to retire regardless of age after at least 20 years' service in direct agricultural production, including absences to care for children, or at least 10 years' service, not including absences to care for children.

125. In accordance with article 12, paragraph (e) of the Pension Act of the Republic of Belarus, women who have worked at least 20 years milking cows (operating milking machines) or raising calves or pigs on collective or State farms or in other agricultural enterprises are, upon reaching the age of 50, entitled to pensions on preferential terms.

126. The draft State programme for the rebirth of the Belarusian village contains a number of measures for the comprehensive solution of questions relating to the organization, formation and development of farm holdings. In addition to providing credit to future farmers, the programme envisages the establishment of model highly mechanized family farms. Such farms will be offered, on a competitive basis, to experienced skilled workers who will subsequently refund the costs from sales of agricultural produce. The programme also provides for the accelerated implementation of an intersectoral programme for the production of small-scale machinery and machines and equipment for tenants, cooperatives, tenant collectives, peasants' and personal subsidiary farms, using for this purpose the Republic's production capacity, including the defence industry; it also provides for the establishment of centres for the lease of tractors, combines and other machines, and construction technology and equipment for the processing of agricultural products.

Article 15

127. (a) The Constitution of the Republic of Belarus (arts. 33 and 51);

(b) The Civil Code of the Republic of Belarus (arts. 9 and 11).

Article 16

128. (a) The Constitution of the Republic of Belarus (arts. 51 and 64);

(b) The Marriage and Family Code of the Republic of Belarus (arts. 3, 4, 15, 16, 19-21, 33, 59-61, 65-67, 80 and 167).

129. On 14 November 1991, Belarus amended article 33 of the Marriage and Family Code, making it illegal for a husband to demand the dissolution of marriage without his wife's consent, not only during pregnancy but also for three years after the birth of a child.

Statistical survey

Table 1. Number of men and women, by age groups, in the Republic of Belarus

(At the beginning of the year, thousands)

	1987		1988		1989[a]		1990		1991		1992	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Total population	4 688.6	5 354.2	4 714.4	5 375.3	4 749.3	5 402.5	4 783.8	5 427.6	4 787.9	5 424.6	4 801.4	5 431.5
of which, aged:												
0-4	422.4	405.7	422.6	405.7	418.6	400.6	416.5	396.7	406.4	386.3	388.7	367.9
5-9	383.6	369.4	388.7	375.0	400.5	386.4	410.3	396.0	415.6	401.2	424.4	409.2
10-14	372.2	356.4	370.2	357.0	371.2	359.8	374.5	363.0	378.8	366.9	383.1	371.9
15-19	354.4	357.2	354.4	355.0	356.0	350.9	362.6	360.2	366.1	362.3	366.6	361.0
20-24	389.4	385.3	370.7	368.4	349.9	356.0	342.7	348.2	334.6	342.3	332.5	341.1
25-29	441.2	432.4	439.8	432.1	432.0	425.2	421.9	417.0	401.7	399.8	384.8	384.6
30-34	387.5	388.0	399.4	400.0	419.1	418.0	429.4	427.1	436.8	434.5	441.6	438.6
35-39	347.3	350.7	357.2	361.4	360.7	364.8	365.6	369.5	372.5	376.7	383.4	388.5
40-44	212.0	222.4	226.7	235.2	258.7	267.2	286.2	295.7	316.7	327.2	336.8	347.5
45-49	315.3	351.1	292.1	323.5	258.3	281.6	234.4	254.3	209.9	227.1	203.0	218.0
50-54	286.6	342.6	288.6	339.5	301.0	353.2	308.5	361.6	304.9	356.3	294.1	340.6
55-59	290.5	364.3	292.2	369.3	278.0	350.3	267.3	337.3	257.1	320.5	262.0	329.2
60-64	188.1	334.9	206.3	340.2	227.6	352.7	239.4	350.5	253.5	356.9	255.6	344.8
65-69	94.2	183.3	109.1	215.7	121.8	237.5	133.0	261.7	143.4	278.3	157.1	305.5
70 and older	203.9	510.5	196.4	497.3	195.9	498.3	191.5	488.8	189.9	488.3	187.7	483.1
Of the total, population:												
under working age	1 252.9	1 203.9	1 258.1	1 210.8	1 264.5	1 218.1	1 275.3	1 228.0	1 274.6	1 226.7	1 271.1	1 221.8
of working age	2 949.5	2 757.3	2 944.5	2 742.0	2 939.5	2 745.6	2 944.6	2 761.3	2 926.5	2 753.9	2 929.9	2 747.1
over working age	486.2	1 393.0	511.8	1 422.5	545.3	1 438.8	563.9	1 438.3	586.8	1 444.0	600.4	1 462.6

[a] In this and subsequent tables, according to the 12 January census.

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Table 2. Proportion of men and women, by age groups, in the Republic of Belarus

(At the beginning of the year, percentages)

	1987		1988		1989		1990		1991		1992	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Total population	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
of which, aged:												
0-4	9.0	7.6	9.0	7.6	8.8	7.4	8.7	7.3	8.5	7.1	8.1	6.8
5-9	8.2	6.9	8.2	7.0	8.4	7.2	8.6	7.3	8.7	7.4	8.8	7.5
10-14	7.9	6.7	7.8	6.6	7.8	6.7	7.8	6.7	7.9	6.8	8.0	6.8
15-19	7.6	6.7	7.5	6.6	7.5	6.5	7.6	6.6	7.6	6.7	7.7	6.6
20-24	8.3	7.2	7.9	6.9	7.4	6.6	7.2	6.4	7.0	6.3	6.9	6.3
25-29	9.4	8.1	9.3	8.0	9.1	7.9	8.8	7.7	8.4	7.4	8.0	7.1
30-34	8.3	7.2	8.5	7.4	8.8	7.7	9.0	7.9	9.0	8.0	9.2	8.1
35-39	7.4	6.5	7.6	6.7	7.6	6.8	7.6	6.8	7.8	6.9	8.0	7.2
40-44	4.5	4.1	4.8	4.4	5.5	4.9	6.0	5.4	6.6	6.0	7.0	6.4
45-49	6.7	6.6	6.2	6.0	5.4	5.2	4.9	4.7	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.0
50-54	6.1	6.4	6.1	6.3	6.3	6.5	6.4	6.7	6.4	6.6	6.1	6.3
55-59	6.2	6.8	6.2	6.9	5.9	6.5	5.6	6.2	5.4	5.9	5.5	6.1
60-64	4.0	6.3	4.4	6.3	4.8	6.5	5.0	6.5	5.3	6.6	5.3	6.3
65-69	2.0	3.4	2.3	4.0	2.6	4.4	2.8	4.8	3.0	5.1	3.3	5.6
70 and older	4.4	9.5	4.2	9.3	4.1	9.2	4.0	9.0	4.0	9.0	3.9	8.9
Of the total, population:												
under working age	26.7	22.5	26.7	22.5	26.6	22.6	26.7	22.6	26.6	22.6	26.5	22.5
of working age	62.9	51.5	62.5	51.0	61.9	50.8	61.5	50.9	61.1	50.8	61.0	50.6
over working age	10.4	26.0	10.8	26.5	11.5	26.6	11.8	26.5	12.3	26.6	12.5	26.9

Table 3. Proportion of women in the total population by age groups in the Republic of Belarus

(At the beginning of the year, percentages)

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
All women	53.3	53.3	53.2	53.2	53.1	53.1
of whom, aged:						
0-4	49.0	49.0	48.9	48.8	48.7	48.6
5-9	49.1	49.1	49.1	49.1	49.1	49.1
10-14	48.9	49.1	49.2	49.2	49.2	49.3
15-19	50.2	50.0	49.6	49.8	49.7	49.6
20-24	49.7	49.8	50.4	50.4	50.6	50.6
25-29	49.5	49.6	49.6	49.7	49.9	50.0
30-34	50.0	50.0	49.9	49.9	49.9	49.8
35-39	50.2	50.3	50.3	50.3	50.3	50.3
40-44	51.2	50.9	50.8	50.8	50.8	50.8
45-49	52.7	52.5	52.1	52.0	52.0	51.8
50-54	54.5	54.1	54.0	54.0	53.9	53.7
55-59	55.6	55.8	55.8	55.8	55.5	55.7
60-64	64.0	62.3	60.8	59.4	58.5	57.4
65-69	66.1	66.4	66.1	66.3	66.0	66.0
70 and older	71.5	71.7	71.8	71.8	72.0	72.0
Of the total, population:						
under working age	49.0	49.0	49.1	49.1	49.0	49.0
of working age	48.3	48.2	48.3	48.4	48.5	48.4
over working age	74.1	73.5	72.5	71.8	71.1	70.9

Table 4. Educational level of men and women in the Republic of Belarus

(Data from population censuses)

	Of 1,000 persons of that sex with higher and secondary (complete and incomplete) education		of whom					
			completed higher education		did not complete higher and secondary (general and specialized) education		did not complete secondary education	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Total population aged 15 and older:								
1979	719	596	78	63	372	344	269	189
1989	828	722	114	103	526	468	188	151
Employed population:								
1979	779	749	98	93	428	463	253	192
1989	893	906	138	149	608	641	147	116

Table 5. Distribution of women aged 16 and older by marital status and age in the Republic of Belarus

(Data from population censuses, thousands)

	1979				
	Married	Never married	Widowed	Divorced or separated	Marital status not reported
All women aged 16 and older	2 321.2	675.0	744.5	196.8	5.7
16-19	27.5	311.4	0.1	0.6	0.6
20-24	235.4	162.9	0.9	9.9	1.1
25-29	293.4	43.7	2.4	20.1	0.4
30-39	473.1	28.3	12.6	45.0	0.3
40-49	591.7	38.3	46.7	57.1	0.4
50-59	428.4	48.6	120.5	44.7	0.4
60 and older	271.3	41.5	560.7	19.3	1.9

	1989				
	Married	Never married	Widowed	Divorced or separated	Marital status not reported
All women aged 16 and older	2 582.8	591.8	738.6	265.0	6.2
16-19	27.6	250.5	0.2	0.6	0.8
20-24	217.9	127.1	0.7	9.6	0.7
25-29	348.5	50.2	2.2	23.8	0.6
30-39	660.0	43.6	12.0	66.7	0.5
40-49	433.8	19.0	33.5	61.9	0.5
50-59	500.3	33.4	109.2	59.8	0.7
60 and older	394.7	68.0	580.8	42.6	2.4

Table 6. Distribution of women by marital status in the Republic of Belarus

(Data from population censuses, percentages)

	1979				1989			
	Never married	Married	Widowed	Divorced or separated	Never married	Married	Widowed	Divorced or separated
All women aged 16 and over	17.1	58.9	18.9	5.0	14.2	61.7	17.7	6.3
16-19	91.5	8.1	0.0	0.2	89.6	9.9	0.0	0.2
20-24	39.7	57.4	0.2	2.4	35.7	61.2	0.2	2.7
25-29	12.1	81.5	0.7	5.6	11.8	82.0	0.5	5.6
30-39	5.1	84.5	2.2	8.1	5.6	84.3	1.5	8.5
40-49	5.2	80.6	6.4	7.8	3.5	79.1	6.1	11.3
50-59	7.6	66.7	18.7	6.9	4.8	71.1	15.5	8.5
60 and older	4.6	30.3	62.7	2.2	6.2	36.3	53.4	3.9

Table 7. Marriages and divorces and overall marriage and divorce rates in the Republic of Belarus

Years	Number of marriages	Number of divorces	Per 1,000 inhabitants	
			Marriages	Divorces
1987	102 053	30 507	10.1	3.0
1988	96 064	32 111	9.4	3.2
1989	97 929	34 573	9.6	3.4
1990	99 229	34 986	9.7	3.4
1991	94 760	37 802	9.2	3.7
1992	79 813	39 004	7.7	3.9

Table 8. Number of births and total birth rates in the Republic of Belarus

Years	Number of births	Number of births per 1,000 inhabitants
1987	162 937	16.1
1988	163 193	16.1
1989	153 449	15.0
1990	142 167	13.9
1991	132 045	12.9
1992	127 971	12.4

Table 9. Number and size of families in the Republic of Belarus

(Data from population censuses)

	Number of families, thousands		As a percentage of the total	
	1979	1989	1979	1989
All families	2 527.3	2 796.1	100	100
of which, families consisting of:				
2 people	806.0	971.7	31.9	34.8
3 "	737.2	766.1	29.2	27.4
4 "	633.9	747.7	25.1	26.7
5 "	232.8	212.4	9.2	7.6
6 "	78.1	66.4	3.1	2.4
7 or more people	39.3	31.8	1.5	1.1
Average family size (family members living together)	3.3	3.2	-	-

Table 10. Number of incomplete families in the Republic of Belarus

(Data from population censuses)

	Incomplete families, thousands		As a percentage of the total	
	1979	1989	1979	1989
Incomplete families	299.2	338.8	100	100
of which, families consisting of:				
mother and children	246.6	279.9	82.4	82.6
father and children	18.6	23.4	6.2	6.9
mother and children, and one of the mother's (father's parents)	31.6	32.5	10.6	9.6
father and children, and one of the father's (mother's) parents	2.4	3.0	0.8	0.9

Table 11. Number of children born to women who are not in registered marriages in the Republic of Belarus

	Number of children born to women who are not in registered marriages	Proportion of children born to women who are not in registered marriages, as a percentage of total births
1987	12 185	7.5
1988	12 813	7.9
1989	12 186	7.9
1990	12 131	8.5
1991	12 420	9.4
1992	12 531	9.8

Table 12. Number of mothers of many children in the Republic of Belarus who receive a monthly State allowance

(at year's end, women)

Number of mothers of many children	1987	1988	1989	1990
Total	23 302	23 752	23 549	22 960
of whom:				
with 4 children	12 376	12 544	13 640	13 359
with 5 children	6 566	6 738	6 098	5 814
with 6 children	2 305	2 377	2 136	2 080
with 7-8 children	1 492	1 507	1 182	1 214
with 9-10 children	374	372	336	338
with 11 or more children	189	214	157	155

Table 13. Distribution of women by source of income in the Republic of Belarus

(Data from population censuses)

	Number of women, thousands		Percentage of the total		Women as a percentage of all persons with that source of income	
	1979	1989	1979	1989	1979	1989
Women	5 111.3	5 402.5	100.0	100.0	53.6	53.2
Working in the national economy (other than those employed only in the private subsidiary economy)	2 491.6	2 582.8	48.7	47.8	50.0	48.8
Grant-aided students	130.4	139.8	2.5	2.6	52.0	50.5
Pensioners and persons receiving allowances and other persons supported by the State	1 087.8	1 320.8	21.3	24.5	68.4	69.6
Dependants of individuals, and persons employed solely in the private subsidiary economy	1 397.0	1 356.0	27.4	25.1	51.7	50.7
Women with other sources of income and those not reporting a source	4.5	3.1	0.1	0.0	59.2	43.8

Table 14. Distribution of women by sector of the national economy in the Republic of Belarus

(Data from population censuses)

	Number of women, thousands		Percentage of the total		Women as a proportion of all employed persons, percentages	
	1979	1989	1979	1989	1979	1989
Employed women (other than those employed in the private subsidiary economy)	2 491.6	2 582.8	100	100	50.0	48.8
of whom:						
employed in production sectors	1 819.8	1 736.8	73.0	67.3	46.3	43.4
of which:						
industry	706.9	800.1	28.4	31.0	48.6	48.6
agriculture	603.5	376.7	24.2	14.6	46.4	35.7
transport	65.4	66.9	2.6	2.6	23.5	22.3
communications	41.6	40.8	1.7	1.6	68.2	64.9
construction	109.4	103.8	4.4	4.0	24.9	22.5
trade and public catering	261.7	294.7	10.5	11.4	83.2	82.8
materials and machinery supplies and sales	8.5	12.8	0.3	0.5	47.2	45.8
procurement	5.8	5.6	0.2	0.2	52.2	51.4
information and computer services	...	16.2	...	0.6	...	79.8
employed in non-productive sectors	669.6	837.8	26.9	32.4	64.1	65.8
of which:						
housing and utilities	31.7	46.0	1.3	1.8	49.2	45.4
consumer services	29.6	32.5	1.2	1.3	69.5	72.3
health care, physical education and social services	165.0	203.8	6.6	7.9	81.3	80.8
education	249.3	335.0	10.0	13.0	76.8	79.8
culture and art	37.8	43.9	1.5	1.7	71.6	69.6
science and scientific services	50.2	63.1	2.0	2.4	50.1	51.3
credits and State insurance	18.2	25.5	0.7	0.9	83.1	87.9
management and social organizations[a]	87.9	88.0	3.5	3.4	37.4	36.7

[a] Including party organizations.

Table 15. Distribution of women by occupation in the Republic of Belarus

(Data from population censuses)

	Number of women, thousands		Percentage of the total		Women as a percentage of all persons in that occupation	
	1979	1989	1979	1989	1979	1989
Employed women	2 491.6	2 582.8	100	100	50.0	48.8
of whom:						
directors of State management bodies and their structural subdivisions	4.3	6.6	0.2	0.2	43.5	50.0
directors of social organizations and their structural subdivisions[a]	4.1	7.2	0.2	0.3	32.5	40.1
directors of enterprises and organizations (industry, construction, agriculture and forestry, transport and communications) and their structural subdivisions	21.1	28.4	0.8	1.1	27.3	27.0
engineering and technical specialists	178.2	229.1	7.1	8.9	45.6	48.2
agronomists, animal specialists, veterinarians and foresters	14.8	16.4	0.6	0.6	41.4	43.9
medical workers	99.8	131.6	4.0	5.1	87.3	87.7
scientific workers, teachers, educators	160.4	227.2	6.4	8.8	69.2	73.8
directors of scientific research institutions, exploring and prospecting organizations, scientific workers (except teachers at higher educational institutions)	7.6	10.2	0.3	0.4	39.2	39.8
teachers at higher educational institutions	5.7	7.3	0.2	0.3	42.9	42.4
heads of educational institutions and course instructors	2.5	4.1	0.1	0.2	30.0	43.6
teachers at primary, incomplete secondary and all secondary educational institutions and teachers of courses	92.5	110.2	3.7	4.3	76.7	79.2

	Number of women, thousands		Percentage of the total		Women as a percentage of all persons in that occupation	
	1979	1989	1979	1989	1979	1989
instructors and supervisors of industrial training	3.5	5.4	0.1	0.2	32.5	39.6
physical education and sports teachers, instructors and trainers	2.8	4.0	0.1	0.1	23.1	27.6
directors of children's homes and pre-school institutions, providers in children's homes, pre-school institutions and boarding schools	45.7	85.8	1.8	3.3	97.0	97.6
workers in literature and the press	2.9	3.5	0.1	0.1	55.0	58.8
cultural and educational workers	24.3	30.2	1.0	1.2	82.6	81.9
workers in fine arts	4.3	7.3	0.2	0.3	38.6	41.9
artists, producers, composers, conductors	2.5	4.1	0.1	0.2	51.0	52.9
artists, sculptors	1.4	2.8	0.1	0.1	26.8	32.5
legal personnel	2.2	3.5	0.1	0.1	41.5	47.6
workers in trade, public catering, procurement, supply and marketing	45.4	59.1	1.8	2.3	71.4	76.6
workers in planning and accounting	184.1	222.2	7.4	8.6	88.6	90.9
economists, statisticians	36.7	52.4	1.5	2.0	87.3	90.6
office workers and secretarial staff	41.3	51.2	1.7	2.0	89.1	93.3
workers in housing and consumer service enterprises and organizations	4.9	6.7	0.2	0.3	71.0	67.8
metallurgists, founders and coke producers	4.4	5.2	0.2	0.2	38.3	32.2
women employed in machine-building and metalworking	110.3	130.6	4.4	5.1	16.4	16.5
chemists	16.6	20.3	0.7	0.8	56.2	55.2
women employed in the production of building materials and glass, china and earthenware	14.6	13.6	0.6	0.5	48.9	42.4
woodworkers	16.8	13.9	0.7	0.5	28.0	22.7
paper and cardboard industry workers	2.5	2.1	0.1	0.1	68.2	61.9

	Number of women, thousands		Percentage of the total		Women as a percentage of all persons in that occupation	
	1979	1989	1979	1989	1979	1989
printers	5.8	8.0	0.2	0.3	75.0	75.4
textile workers	52.0	53.5	2.1	2.1	89.5	87.4
garment workers	95.6	100.9	3.8	3.9	97.0	97.0
leatherworkers and furriers	4.3	4.7	0.2	0.2	75.6	72.6
boot and shoe industry workers	7.6	9.8	0.3	0.4	64.2	67.9
food industry workers	27.7	29.6	1.1	1.1	83.9	80.4
builders	51.7	39.4	2.1	1.5	24.7	17.0
painters, plasterers	32.5	27.8	1.3	1.1	70.2	62.8
agricultural occupations	514.2	256.7	20.6	9.9	52.6	41.6
employed in the plant-growing industry	353.2	104.3	14.2	4.0	64.8	58.3
railway workers	12.2	8.5	0.5	0.3	31.9	26.9
employed in motor transport and urban electric transport	8.3	7.7	0.3	0.3	2.5	2.1
drivers of cars and buses	2.2	2.2	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.6
drivers of trams and trolleybuses, operators of underground trains	1.3	1.5	0.1	0.1	48.2	37.2
communications workers	29.2	27.0	1.2	1.0	89.0	88.2
workers in trade and public catering	159.7	180.1	6.4	7.0	97.3	96.8
workers in housing, utilities and consumer services	133.0	145.8	5.3	5.7	92.8	90.8
projectionists	2.2	2.5	0.1	0.1	37.0	45.5
hospital attendants, nurses	62.2	71.4	2.5	2.8	97.2	97.1
calculating-machine and computer operators	12.3	16.7	0.5	0.7	95.3	91.8
guards, janitors	30.0	34.1	1.2	1.3	49.0	45.7
laboratory assistants (workers) and workers in geological exploring and prospecting operations	20.8	23.5	0.8	0.9	90.6	92.3

[a] Including directors and instructors of party organizations.

Table 16. Average annual number of women manual and office workers in the national economy

	Average annual number of women, thousands				
	1987	1988	1989	1990	As at 1 January 1993
Entire economy	2 274.6	2 271.2	2 277.2	2 263.9	2 135.3
Industry	798.8	801.6	805.1	792.9	717.7
Agriculture (excluding collective farms)	192.9	176.1	167.1	155.3	102.1
of which: State farms	167.5	151.4	142.7	131.2	
Transport	69.3	66.0	62.8	64.1	62.5
Construction	97.3	102.9	104.4	102.2	87.7
Trade and public catering, materials and machinery supply and sales, procurement	301.0	296.6	301.3	303.9	298.6
Health, physical education and social security	199.6	205.5	211.4	215.5	228.6
Education	291.7	301.9	308.4	312.7	336.7
Science and scientific services	58.5	57.5	55.7	56.2	37.0
Credits and State insurance	23.7	24.0	24.9	25.3	28.9
State and economic management bodies, management bodies of cooperative and public organizations	47.3	44.5	39.5	40.3	45.6
including:					
State management bodies	32.2	30.6	29.0	29.7	34.9

	Percentages of average annual number of manual and office workers				
	1987	1988	1989	1990	As at 1 January 1993
Entire economy	52.6	52.6	52.8	53.4	53.0
Industry	52.2	52.5	52.8	53.2	50.6
Agriculture (excluding collective farms)	42.6	41.1	40.9	40.3	37.8
of which: State farms	44.9	43.0	43.0	42.3	
Transport	19.7	20.3	20.6	21.0	21.6
Construction	23.4	22.2	21.7	22.1	20.6
Trade and public catering, materials and machinery supply and sales, procurement	80.5	81.9	82.1	82.6	78.8
Health, physical education and social security	81.6	81.6	81.3	82.4	82.0
Education	75.9	75.6	76.0	76.8	78.9
Science and scientific services	54.7	54.7	54.2	55.2	52.9
Credits and State insurance	87.0	88.2	88.2	88.1	86.7
State and economic management bodies, management bodies of cooperative and public organizations	62.5	63.6	63.1	62.5	64.3
including:					
State management bodies	63.4	64.2	64.8	64.1	65.9

Table 17. Number of women specialists with higher and secondary specialized education employed in the national economy

(Based on data from a one-time survey, thousands)

	On 15 November		
	1987	1989	As at 1 January 1993
All women specialists	840.6	889.2	883.2
including:			
with higher education	337.1	357.6	362.5
with secondary specialized education	503.5	531.6	520.7
Women as a percentage of the total number of specialists with higher and secondary specialized education	61.8	61.9	60.1

Table 18. Number of women directors (heads) of enterprises, establishments and organizations in industry, agriculture, transport and construction

(As at 1 January)

	Total women directors			Proportion of women directors, percentages		
	1989	1990	1991	1989	1990	1991
Industry	172	172	172	9.1	9.2	9.3
Agriculture (except collective farms)	261	260	254	7.0	7.1	6.9
Transport	4	4	4	0.8	0.8	0.8
Construction	6		7	0.4	0.4	0.4

Table 19. Working conditions of women in individual sectors as at 31 December 1990

(Thousands)

	Industrial enterprises		Transport enterprises and organizations		Construction organizations	
	Total	of which, women	Total	of which, women	Total	of which, women
All personnel	1 357.2	680.4	263.8	61.2	328.2	66.9
of whom, employees at workplaces that do not meet the required standards of work safety	289.6	124.3	14.6	2.1	17.5	2.7
of whom						
at workplaces that do not meet health and hygiene requirements	242.3	108.9	9.0	1.2	10.7	1.7
engaged in heavy physical labour	18.9	3.7	3.8	0.3	4.7	0.7

Table 20. Proportion of women out of the total number of persons employed at workplaces that do not meet the required standards of work safety, by sectors as at 31 December 1990

(Percentages)

	Proportion of women out of the total number of persons employed at workplaces that do not meet the required standards of work safety	of whom, employed	
		at workplaces that do not meet health and hygiene requirements	heavy physical labour
Industrial enterprises	42.9	45.0	19.4
Transport enterprises and organizations	14.3	13.7	6.6
Construction organizations	15.7	15.6	14.9

Table 21. Distribution of workers engaged in mechanized and manual labour in individual sectors of the national economy as at 1 August 1989

(Based on data from a one-time survey, percentages)

	Number of workers performing work					
	with the aid of machines and mechanical devices		by hand with machines and mechanical devices and without machines and mechanical devices		in the repair and servicing of machines and mechanical devices	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Industry	55.5	63.9	19.3	35.2	25.2	0.9
Construction	50.4	29.3	43.7	70.5	5.9	0.2
State farms	49.4	29.9	39.0	70.0	11.6	0.1
Motor-vehicle transport	84.3	37.6	7.3	56.7	8.4	5.7
River transport	55.9	5.6	39.5	94.2	4.6	0.2
Road works	61.0	3.5	33.4	96.5	5.6	-

Table 22. Agriculture (collective farms, State farms, mixed farms)

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
1. Included in the register of farms at year's end, thousands	1 056.1	989.7	967.1	935.6	x
of whom, women	456.7	423.6	414.3	376.7	x
Proportion of women, percentages	43.2	42.8	42.8	40.3	x
2. Total number of mechanized personnel, thousands	137.6	135.1	131.1	126.7	123.3
of whom, women	456	443	432	414	402
Proportion of women, percentages	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
3. Level of full-scale mechanization in livestock-raising, percentages					
- in housing for cattle	68	71	73	73	73
- in housing for pigs	93	94	94	94	94
- in housing for poultry	98	97	96	96	96

Table 23. Benefits and compensation for work in unfavourable conditions as at 31 December 1990

(Thousands)

	Industrial enterprises		Transport enterprises and organizations		Construction organizations	
	Total	Of whom, women	Total	Of whom, women	Total	Of whom, women
Number of workers who, for work in unfavourable conditions, have been granted:						
Additional leave	452.2	190.9	116.8	6.5	104.4	9.8
Shortened workday	25.3	11.1	1.3	0.5	7.4	1.2
Free medically prescribed diet	30.5	13.6	2.4	0.4	4.5	0.6
Free milk or other food products of equal value	424.1	186.8	22.8	3.3	55.9	8.5
The right to an increased State pension on preferential terms	158.4	59.1	12.4	0.4	18.8	1.0
Number of workers who are entitled to higher wage rates or additional pay for work in unfavourable conditions	336.8	140.1	23.2	2.6	32.3	4.0
Number of workers who are entitled to at least one type of benefit or form of compensation	558.1	250.7	124.4	8.2	120.3	13.4

Table 24. Number of unemployed women

	Registered unemployed persons as at 31 December 1991		
	Total	Of whom, women	Percentage of women
Number of unemployed persons	2 268	1 815	80.0
of whom:			
with higher education	1 072	897	83.7
with secondary specialized education	586	521	88.9
with secondary general education	550	349	63.5
without full secondary education	60	48	80.0

Table 25. Expenditure from the State budget and other sources on the education of children

(Millions of roubles)

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
Expenditure on the maintenance of primary, incomplete secondary and secondary schools, and boarding schools (excluding expenditure on capital investment)	501.9	544.0	592.8	645.1	1 527.0
Expenditure on services for children in children's homes, infants' homes, pre-school institutions, pioneer camps and extra-scholastic institutions (excluding capital investment)	335.2	311.1	386.5	464.1	1 315.1
Expenditure on the payment of allowances to mothers - total	161.4	164.7	162.9	199.6	1 225.8
of which:					
allowances for pregnancy and childbirth	74.8	79.7	80.6	89.5	143.3
for the birth of a child	10.9	10.9	10.2	9.2	28.2
for childcare	52.0	51.1	50.1	62.4	226.1
child allowances for needy families	9.1	7.5	5.8	10.8	766.3
allowances for mothers with many children, and single mothers	14.6	15.5	16.2	27.7	61.9

Table 26. Time spent on domestic work by manual and white-collar workers in industry and by collective farm workers in 1990

(on average per worker per day, minutes)

	Manual and white-collar workers in industry				Collective farm workers			
	Men		Women		Men		Women	
	Workday	Day off	Workday	Day off	Workday	Day off	Workday	Day off
Time spent on domestic work	67	144	208	386	83	159	235	384
of which time spent:								
on household tasks	51	116	160	320	74	142	208	347
of which:								
food preparation	9	11	69	104	7	16	86	104
maintenance of home, furniture, appliances	27	67	39	86	47	82	61	108
laundry, sewing, care of clothing, linen and footwear	4	10	39	94	5	9	40	88
childcare	7	19	11	32	4	11	15	29
other types of domestic work	4	9	2	4	11	24	6	18
purchase of goods and receipt of services	16	28	48	66	9	17	27	37

Table 27. Time spent on domestic work by manual and white-collar workers in industry and by collective farm workers in 1985

(on average per worker per day, minutes)

	Manual and white-collar workers in industry				Collective farm workers			
	Men		Women		Men		Women	
	Workday	Day off	Workday	Day off	Workday	Day off	Workday	Day off
Time spent on domestic work	59	158	196	359	49	91	219	316
of which time spent:								
on household tasks	42	113	143	281	37	69	189	270
of which:								
food preparation	11	24	75	122	10	10	101	119
maintenance of home, furniture, appliances	9	27	23	51	5	7	31	47
laundry, sewing, care of clothing, linen and footwear	3	10	28	74	4	3	39	72
childcare	9	18	12	23	5	7	11	14
other types of domestic work	10	34	5	11	13	42	7	18
purchase of goods and receipt of services	17	45	53	78	12	22	30	46

Table 28. Special protection measures for families with children, introduced in Belarus in the context of reforms and price liberalization in 1991-1992

Types of allowances and payments for children	1991						1992	
	Size of allowances (in roubles) in accordance with							
	Decision No. 100 of 22 March 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Decision No. 130 of 6 April 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Decision No. 185 of 17 May 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Decision No. 190 of 20 May 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Price index 6,7 (Sept.-Nov.)	Price index 12,1 (Dec.)	Types of allowances and payments	Size of allowances in accordance with Decision No. 482 of 20 December 1991 of the Council of Ministers of Belarus
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1. One-time allowance on the birth of a child (in the case of the birth of two or more children, the allowance is paid for each child)	210 roubles	-	280	-	300	336	1. One-time allowance on the birth of a child (in the case of the birth of two or more children, the allowance is paid for each child)	700 roubles
2. One-time (incentive) allowance for women who registered at a women's consultation clinic before the twelfth week of pregnancy (Decision No. 248 of 26 June 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelorussian SSR)	50 per cent of the one-time allowance	-	50 per cent of the one-time allowance	-	50 per cent of the one-time allow-ance	50 per cent of the one-time allow-ance	2. One-time allowance to new mothers who registered at a women's consultation clinic before the twelfth week of pregnancy	50 per cent of the one-time birth allowance (350 roubles)

	1991						1992	
	Size of allowances (in roubles) in accordance with							
Types of allowances and payments for children	Decision No. 100 of 22 March 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Decision No. 130 of 6 April 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Decision No. 185 of 17 May 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Decision No. 190 of 20 May 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Price index 6,7 (Sept.-Nov.)	Price index 12,1 (Dec.)	Types of allowances and payments	Size of allowances in accordance with Decision No. 482 of 20 December 1991 of the Council of Ministers of Belarus
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3. Monthly allowance for care of a child up to the age of 18 months, and from 18 months to three years, provided that the child is not enrolled in a pre-school institution:							3. Allowance for the care of a child up to the age of three for working women (regardless of length of service) and non-working women	420 roubles
(a) For working women with one year's service, women on study leave and women under the age of 18, regardless of length of service	110	–	121	–	129.11	135.64	4. Allowance for the care of a child aged between 18 months and three years if the child is enrolled in a pre-school institution or if the mother interrupts her childcare leave	210 roubles

Types of allowances and payments for children	1991						1992	
	Size of allowances (in roubles) in accordance with						Types of allowances and payments	Size of allowances in accordance with Decision No. 482 of 20 December 1991 of the Council of Ministers of Belarus
	Decision No. 100 of 22 March 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Decision No. 130 of 6 April 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Decision No. 185 of 17 May 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Decision No. 190 of 20 May 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Price index 6,7 (Sept.-Nov.)	Price index 12,1 (Dec.)		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
(b) For working women over the age of 18 who have not completed one year's service, and for non-working women	80	-	85	-	90.70	95.29	5. Allowance to families caring for children aged:	210 roubles
							Between three and six	210 roubles
							Between six and 16 (students not receiving grants - up to the age of 18, and students up to the age of 18 attending daytime comprehensive secondary schools, gymnasiums or lycées)	245 roubles
4. Monthly allowance for children aged between 18 months and six years, other than children aged between 18 months and three years in respect of whom an allowance is being paid for their care	80	-	85	-	90.70	95.29	6. Allowance to non-working persons not receiving pensions for the care of a disabled child up to the age of 16	175

	1991						1992	
	Size of allowances (in roubles) in accordance with							
Types of allowances and payments for children	Decision No. 100 of 22 March 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Decision No. 130 of 6 April 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Decision No. 185 of 17 May 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Decision No. 190 of 20 May 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Price index 6,7 (Sept.-Nov.)	Price index 12,1 (Dec.)	Types of allowances and payments	Size of allowances in accordance with Decision No. 482 of 20 December 1991 of the Council of Ministers of Belarus
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5. Monthly allowance for women caring for children up to the age of 16 (for students not receiving a grant, up to the age of 18):							7. Increased allowances to families caring for children of the specified age:	
(a) Single mothers with children up to the age of six	90	-	75	-	90.70	95.29	(a) By 25 per cent for single mothers and divorced men and women if one of the parents refuses to pay child support, or in other cases provided for under Belarusian legislation, when it is impossible to collect child support:	
(b) Single mothers with children up to the age of 16 (18)	90	-	25	-	101.37	106.50	- For children up to the age of three;	525

Types of allowances and payments for children	1991						1992	
	Size of allowances (in roubles) in accordance with							
	Decision No. 100 of 22 March 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Decision No. 130 of 6 April 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Decision No. 185 of 17 May 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Decision No. 190 of 20 May 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Price index 6,7 (Sept.-Nov.)	Price index 12,1 (Dec.)	Types of allowances and payments	Size of allowances in accordance with Decision No. 482 of 20 December 1991 of the Council of Ministers of Belarus
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
(c) Single mothers (widows and widowers) and former inmates of children's homes	110	–	121	–	129.11	135.64	- For children aged between three and six;	265
							- For children aged between six and 16 (for students not receiving grants - up to the age of 18, and also students over the age of 18 attending daytime comprehensive secondary schools, gymnasiums or lycées)	305
6. Temporary allowance for children whose parents refuse to pay child support, or in other cases where payment of child support is impossible:								

	1991						1992	
	Size of allowances (in roubles) in accordance with							
Types of allowances and payments for children	Decision No. 100 of 22 March 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Decision No. 130 of 6 April 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Decision No. 185 of 17 May 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Decision No. 190 of 20 May 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Price index 6,7 (Sept.-Nov.)	Price index 12,1 (Dec.)	Types of allowances and payments	Size of allowances in accordance with Decision No. 482 of 20 December 1991 of the Council of Ministers of Belarus
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
(a) For each child up to the age of six	80	–	85	–	90.70	95.29	(b) By 50 per cent for single mothers who are orphans, former inmates of children's homes (boarding schools), and for children of conscripts:	
(b) For each child aged between six and 18	90	–	95	–	101.37	106.50	– For children up to the age of three;	630
7. Allowance for children of conscripts	110	–	121	–	129.11	135.64	– For children aged between three and six;	315

1991							1992	
	Size of allowances (in roubles) in accordance with							
Types of allowances and payments for children	Decision No. 100 of 22 March 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Decision No. 130 of 6 April 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Decision No. 185 of 17 May 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Decision No. 190 of 20 May 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Price index 6,7 (Sept.-Nov.)	Price index 12,1 (Dec.)	Types of allowances and payments	Size of allowances in accordance with Decision No. 482 of 20 December 1991 of the Council of Ministers of Belarus
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8. Allowance for children up to the age of 16 who are HIV positive or suffering from AIDS	110	-	121	-	129.11	135.64	- For children aged between six and 16 (for students not receiving a grant, up to the age of 18, and students over the age of 18 attending daytime comprehensive secondary schools, gymnasiums or lycées)	370
9. Monthly allowance for orphans and children abandoned by their parents, living in family-type children's homes or foster families:							8. Allowances for children up to the age of 16 who are HIV positive or suffering from AIDS	565

Types of allowances and payments for children	1991						1992	
	Size of allowances (in roubles) in accordance with							
	Decision No. 100 of 22 March 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Decision No. 130 of 6 April 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Decision No. 185 of 17 May 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Decision No. 190 of 20 May 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Price index 6,7 (Sept.-Nov.)	Price index 12,1 (Dec.)	Types of allowances and payments	Size of allowances in accordance with Decision No. 482 of 20 December 1991 of the Council of Ministers of Belarus
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
(a) In the first year of care:								
- Per pre-school-age child	450	–	–	–	–	–		
- Per school-age child	630	–	–	–	–	–		
(b) In the second year of care and subsequent years:								
- Per pre-school-age child	370	–	–	–	–	–		
- Per school-age child	470	–	–	–	–	–		
10. Medical payments to families with young children [...illegible]								
(a) For children up to the age of six	230	340	–	300*	–	–		

Notes

1. Additional allowances for children over the age of 16 who have completed daytime comprehensive secondary schools are paid:
   - In the year of completion of school, for the month of July and, for children who are continuing their studies in vocational, secondary specialized or higher educational institutions, for the month of August;
   For children who are supporting themselves while studying in higher or secondary specialized educational institutions or at courses and not receiving grants, until they reach the age of 18 (Decree No. 13/1055 of 31 December 1991 of the State Committee on Labour and the Ministry of Finance of Belarus).

Types of allowances and payments for children	1991						1992	
	Size of allowances (in roubles) in accordance with							
	Decision No. 100 of 22 March 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Decision No. 130 of 6 April 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Decision No. 185 of 17 May 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Decision No. 190 of 20 May 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Price index 6.7 (Sept.-Nov.)	Price index 17.1 (Dec.)	Types of allowances and payments	Size of allowances in accordance with Decision No. 482 of 20 December 1991 of the Council of Ministers of Belarus
1	2	4	5	6	7	8	9	
(b) For children aged between six and 13	240	400	-	440*	-	-	2. Decree No. 492 of 27 December 1991 of the Council of Ministers of Belarus establishes that families with many children (three or more children) and needy families (with a combined income per family member of no more than 50 per cent of the minimum wage) are entitled to unpaid leave for children during the first two years of life, milk formulas and other infant food products; furthermore, on the birth of twins, a package of basic infant-care supplies worth up to 500 roubles is provided free of charge from State budget resources for each child.	
(c) For children aged between 13 and 18	280	460	-	540*	-	-		
11. Monthly payments for children who do not receive pensions or allowances under the existing social security system, up to the age of 16 (students not receiving grants, up to the age of 18)	40*							
12. Child allowances for needy families	12	-	14.94	-	15.94	16.75		

Types of allowances and payments for children	1991						1992	
	Size of allowances (in roubles) in accordance with:							
	Decision No. 100 of 22 March 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Decision No. 130 of 6 April 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Decision No. 185 of 17 May 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Decision No. 190 of 20 May 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelo-russian SSR	Price index 8,7 (Sept.-Nov.)	Price index 12,1 (Dec.)	Types of allowances and payments	Size of allowances in accordance with Decision No. 482 of 20 December 1991 of the Council of Ministers of Belarus
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13. Allowances for non-working persons not receiving a pension who are caring for a disabled child up to the age of 16	-	-	-	60	-	-		
14. Allowance for mothers caring for children up to the age of 18 months, and for children aged between 18 months and three years, provided that the child is not enrolled in a pre-school institution	-	60	-	-	-	-		

Notes:

* Decree No. 190 of 20 May 1991 of the Council of Ministers of the Byelorussian SSR envisages monthly payments for children not receiving pensions or allowances under the existing social security system and also quarterly allowances to offset the increased prices of goods for children for students over the age of 18 enrolled in daytime comprehensive secondary schools.

1. Under a regulation of the Council of Ministers of Belarus of 11 September 1991, additional monthly payments amounting to 40 roubles for children over the age of 16 who have completed daytime comprehensive secondary schools and who do not receive pensions or allowances under the existing social security system are made (in the year of completion of school) for the month of July and, for children who are continuing their studies in vocational, secondary specialized or higher educational institutions, also for the month of August. Came into force on 1 July 1991.

2. Under Decision No. 426 of 15 November 1991 of the Council of Ministers of Belarus, a monthly allowance of 40 roubles is payable to persons up to the age of 18 who are supporting themselves while studying in higher or secondary specialized educational institutions or at courses and not receiving grants. Came into force on 1 September 1991.

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English